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## **News Release #20 – Saturday AM Update**

For release at 9:00 a.m.

December 7, 2019

**Beaumont, Texas** – Unified Command reports ongoing response efforts at TPC Group Port Neches Operations remain focused on safely bringing the event to an end.

**Situational update:** There have been no significant changes in the response efforts since Update #19. Response efforts continue to focus on activities to secure site equipment and minimize impact to the environment, while preserving the safety of emergency responders. Friday morning, Unified Command identified small fires in the impacted area on site. These small residual fires were anticipated and are being contained. Response teams continue to monitor and assess. Smoke may be visible.

As reported previously, the fire at TPC Group Port Neches Operation on November 27 impacted 12 tanks on site. Plans are underway to safely transfer all remaining materials from the site, based on mechanical integrity inspections of tanks. All tanks containing materials are being evaluated and prioritized for transfer. To further secure and safely transfer remaining materials from the site, technical experts with TPC Group will introduce inhibitors to stabilize materials being transferred. Options to safely transport materials from the site are being assessed.

**Air Monitoring update:** Air monitoring around the site and in the community continue to show no actionable butadiene levels. Unified Command, comprised of federal, state, local agencies and TPC Group, remains diligent in efforts to monitor air quality. Monitoring coverage, by various state, federal, local agencies, extends throughout the county and is providing real-time air quality data to Unified Command.

Occasional elevated air measurements may continue to register as response teams secure the site. In the last 24-hours, experts have collected 3,531 air monitoring readings in the community. All readings were measured below action levels.

As a reminder, short-term exposure to concentrations less than 10 ppm for one hour or less is not expected to produce health effects other than mild, reversible irritation. Breathing or inhaling airborne butadiene can cause sensory irritation or temporary discomfort and nuisance-type health impacts. Butadiene levels detected near the facility and in the community throughout the course of this event have remained far below levels that could contribute to long-term health risk.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a federal public health agency, is still onsite as a third-party resource dedicated to reviewing the environmental data provided by Unified Command and will communicate findings once they are available.

**Claims activities update:** Approximately 200 claims representatives, including call center operators, field claim adjusters and claims processors, remain in the area. Field claim adjusters are in the field from 8:00 a.m. to one hour before sundown daily in the areas of highest impact. Claims are divided into two general categories: (1) evacuation-related claims cover lodging and meals/incidental expenses and (2) property/personal property damage claims cover damages to homes and other personal property.

To make an appointment, please call **866-601-5880** to make an appointment or visit one of our two Claims Processing Centers, locations at **511 Grigsby Ave.** in Port Neches or **250 Dowlen Rd.** in Beaumont. Claims are being processed at the Claims Processing Centers daily from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please be aware, walk-in wait times are long.

**Evacuation claims information:** To get a head start on the [ [HYPERLINK "https://tinyurl.com/rsno5ay"](https://tinyurl.com/rsno5ay) ], residents may click on [ [HYPERLINK "https://tinyurl.com/rsno5ay"](https://tinyurl.com/rsno5ay) ] and complete the form online and submit supporting documentation. This [ [HYPERLINK "https://form.jotform.com/93328046922156"](https://form.jotform.com/93328046922156) ] is for residents who were in designated evacuation areas and have not already completed an [ [HYPERLINK "https://tinyurl.com/rsno5ay"](https://tinyurl.com/rsno5ay) ] with a claims representative.

Please note, to make an appointment to process your evacuation claim, you must call (866)-601-5880. Completing the [ [HYPERLINK "https://tinyurl.com/rsno5ay"](https://tinyurl.com/rsno5ay) ] does not mean you have an appointment. However, completing the [ [HYPERLINK "https://tinyurl.com/rsno5ay"](https://tinyurl.com/rsno5ay) ] in advance will help expedite the claims process upon arrival at the Claims Processing Center.

**Property claims information:** Claims adjusters are conducting damage inspections in the high impact areas. Claims processing center personnel are making calls and scheduling appointments for the medium and low impact areas. Residents are requested to have the following information with them when submitting property-related claims (by phone or in-person):

- A Photo ID (driver's license, passport, U.S. Military ID) and one of the following address verification documents for adults listed in the household is required:
  - Mail, lease/mortgage payment, utility bill, voter registration card, property tax records

The helpline continues to experience a high volume of calls. We sincerely appreciate callers' patience and understanding. A claims process handout is available for download on [ [HYPERLINK "http://www.portnechesreponse.com/"](http://www.portnechesreponse.com/) ].

Updates and information continue to be posted on the web at [ HYPERLINK  
"http://www.portnechesresponse.com/" ], on Facebook at [ HYPERLINK  
"https://www.facebook.com/portneches.response.1" ] and on Twitter at PortNechesUC.  
EPA website: [ HYPERLINK "http://www.response.epa.gov/south4groupfire" ]  
TCEQ website: [ HYPERLINK "https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/tpc-incident" ]

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